

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support Letter for Greater Portland Transit District's Application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Greater Portland Council of Governments is pleased to support the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emission Grant Program. MaineDOT, in partnership with seven Maine transit agencies, is seeking funding for low and no emissions buses and vans for transit service across Maine, including associated infrastructure and staff training and workforce development.

After observing the successful deployment of four electric buses in the Greater Portland region, we sincerely appreciate MaineDOT's efforts to reduce emissions through cleaner public transportation. MaineDOT's commitment to the environment is consistent with [Connect 2045](#), the region's long-range transportation plan, which calls to "accelerate the transition to electric vehicles" and sets an ambitious 70% greenhouse gas emissions target from transportation by 2045.

This initiative will expand access to cleaner and more sustainable transportation for thousands of Maine transit riders. Indeed, MaineDOT's efforts directly support the goals of the state's climate action plan "Maine Won't Wait" and corresponding Clean Transportation Roadmap, which calls for continued decarbonization of Maine's transportation sector. These new vehicles will improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

GPCOG is a regional planning organization that staffs the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region, which guides transportation policy and investments in the greater Portland, Maine region. We strongly support MaineDOT's efforts and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristina Egan  
Executive Director  
Greater Portland Council of Governments